

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM UPDATE



House Armed Services Committee -- Representative Duncan Hunter, Chairman

Issue Week: October 3, 2003

To Quote:

"The sooner the Iraqis can defend their own people and generate revenue," Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said, "the sooner they will be self-reliant and not dependent on either foreign troops or international assistance."

•

"(We) went to war over a threat from a bloody tyrant in the most volatile region of the world," said National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. "(In 1998) the Clinton administration launched air strikes for that very reason, citing the fact that if he were allowed to keep weapons of mass destruction, he would be a great threat; and there was no reason to believe this got better."

•

"We have found a large body of continuing activities and equipment that were not declared to the U.N. inspectors when they returned in November of last year. This includes substantial equipment and activities in the chemical and biological area, a much more substantial activity in the missile area. The Iraqis were engaged in a very full-scale program that would have extended their delivery systems out beyond 1,000 kilometers." - David Kay, chief U.S. weapons inspector in Iraq

Iraq and Afghanistan:

Three men suspected of abducting and killing two U.S. soldiers in June have been captured by 4th Infantry Division troops in Iraq, U.S. officials said Monday, September 29. A day earlier, a fourth suspect was killed in a gun battle that ensued when a sedan carrying the men tried to run a coalition roadblock near Ad Dujayl, north of Baghdad. The car is believed to be the same one that fled the scene after an improvised explosive device went off two hours before the capture and shoot out. American troops who searched the vehicle found two M-16 rifles later identified as having been assigned to the two abducted U.S. servicemen. An AK-47 assault rifle, an Iraqi military uniform and other equipment also were found in the car. - **CNN**

•

Iraqi and U.S. military police rounded up 92 suspected Fedayeen insurgents and others in 14 raids around the Tikrit area in a 24-hour period ending the morning of Monday, September 29, the coalition said. - **CNN**

•

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun signaled that he would respond positively to the Bush administration's request and send combat troops to Iraq. Roh said his country would contribute to international stability as an expression of gratitude for five decades of U.S. assistance: "The South Korean people are well aware of getting consistent help in the past 50 years...South Korea will be able to repay for the big help by contributing to world peace." - **Washington Times, Sept. 30**

•

American soldiers found large stores of weapons at Iraq sites over the weekend. The biggest cache was discovered in Owja, a town just south of Tikrit, where soldiers from the Fourth Infantry Division discovered 23 surface-to-air missiles, more than 400 grenades, a mortar, and more than 1,000 pounds of high explosives. In a separate raid near Kirkuk, soldiers from the Fourth Infantry Division discovered eight surface-to-air missiles, 196 helicopter rockets, a machine gun, and electrical switches that could be used to make homemade bombs. Two other raids found mortar rounds,

rocket-propelled grenades, and automatic rifles. – **New York Times, Sept. 29**

700 soldiers from the first U.S.-trained battalion of an Iraqi army will graduate Saturday from eight weeks of basic training. They will be the first of what officials hope will be a 35,000-man Iraqi force within a year. – **USA Today, Sept. 29**

Al Qaeda:

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said that the al-Qaeda terrorist network in his country has been wiped out. But Karzai, who believes Osama bin Laden is hiding in the rugged mountain peaks that border Pakistan, warned that unless the world steps up its aid and sends more troops, Islamic radicals could regain control in Afghanistan and stage more terror attacks in the West. – **San Diego Union Tribune, Sept. 27**

Afghanistan's national army gained a new battalion on Monday, boosting its force to about 6,000 and marking the first time that Afghan, rather than foreign, instructors trained an entire battalion. The battalion, composed of 663 soldiers and

13 officers, is the first combat support battalion for the army's 3rd Brigade. Its soldiers will provide engineering, medical and scout skills. The United States has provided uniforms and other basic equipment; weapons came from former Soviet bloc countries. – **Washington Post, Sept. 29**

Home Front:

U.S. Northern Command, or NORTHCOM, the nation's first military command dedicated solely to protecting against terrorist attacks on American soil is up and running with more than 750 military personnel from all branches of the service. If terrorist threat arises, U.S. Northern Command, located at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, has the full force of the military at its disposal to confront threats in the air and seas of the United States, Canada, Mexico and parts of the Caribbean. – **Los Angeles Times, Sept. 30**

Congress sent the fiscal year 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill to President Bush. The \$29.4 billion bill funds operations and activities of the Department of Homeland Security.

Quotes of the Week:

"I'm afraid the news media are hurting our chances. They are dwelling upon the mistakes, the ambushes, the soldiers killed, the wounded. Fair enough. But it is not balancing this bad news with 'the rest of the story,' the progress made daily, the good news. The falsely bleak picture weakens our national resolve, discourages Iraqi cooperation and emboldens our enemy." – **Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA) The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 9/22/03**

"I think it is critical for us to demonstrate not just to the people of Iraq, but to all of the people of the Middle East, indeed the Muslim world, that when the United States injects itself as we did in Iraq and deposes a terrible leader like Saddam Hussein, the United States then follows through with its commitment and keeps its word." – **Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ) House Floor, 10/02/03**

"I can't think of any people who think that the world would be a safe place with Saddam Hussein in power," – **President George W. Bush, White House, 10/03/03**

All information in this issue is unclassified. Sources include Department of Defense and media reports.